

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /080 W

-----221133Z 011370 /10

R 221049Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4856

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ZA RH

SUBJ: PARLIAMENTARIANS QUESTION GRZ'S SUPPORT OF THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT

REF: LUSAKA 0187

1. PARLIAMENTARY RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE GRZ'S RECOGNITION
OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT (REFTEL) SURFACED IN THE JAN 21
SESSION OF PARLIAMENT. ONE MP CALLED UPON THE GRZ TO
SURVEY THE OPINION OF RHODESIANS RESIDENT IN ZAMBIA
REGARDING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT BECAUSE HE DID NOT THINK
THAT IT WAS SO POPULAR WITH ZIMBABWEANS. THE SAME MP
URGED THE FRONTLINE STATES NOT TO TAKE ANY FURTHER
INITIATIVES TO FORGE UNITY AMONG ZIMBABWE LEADERS SHOULD
THE PATRIOTIC FRONT COLLAPSE BECAUSE "THEY HAVE
WASTED A LOT OF MONEY AND ENERGY ON UNITY TALKS".
IN THE SAME VEIN ANOTHER MP WANTED TO KNOW WHY THE
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GRZ HAD RECOGNIZED ROBERT MUGABE, WHO HAD INSULTED
ZAMBIA AND HAD REFUSED TO APOLOGIZE.

2. ANSWERING FOR THE GOVT, MINISTER OF STATE FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS GREENWOOD SILWIZYA URGED THE MEMBERS
NOT TO MAKE STATEMENTS INSIDE OR OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT
WHICH GAVE AMMUNITION TO THE COUNTRIES' ENEMIES. THE

MINISTER OF STATE ADDED THAT, IF THE MEMBERS GAVE THE IMPRESSION THEY WERE CONDEMNING THE GRZ FOR WHAT IT HAD DONE FOR ZIMBABWE, THIS WOULD BOOST THE MORALE OF THE RACISTS.

3. COMMENT: THERE ARE PROBABLY TWO REASONS FOR THE PARLIAMENT'S LESS THAN TOTAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE FRONTLINE STATES' DECISION TO BACK THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. SOME OF THE MEMBERS, BASED ON THEIR OWN PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF RHODESIA AND THE SENTIMENTS OF ITS PEOPLE, DOUBT THAT NKOMO AND MUGABE WOULD REALLY BE ACCEPTED AS LEADERS BY A MAJORITY OF RHODESIANS. THEY FEAR THE FRONTLINE MAY BE BACKING LOSERS. ALSO, WITH ZAMBIAN POLICY REGARDING SOUTHERN AFRICA IN THE HANDS OF A VERY FEW, NONE OF WHOM ARE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT, A RESENTMENT AT BEING IGNORED REGARDING ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST CRUCIAL FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES MAY HAVE DEVELOPED IN PARLIAMENT. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THE GRZ WILL TAKE ANY MORE ACCOUNT OF SUCH PARLIAMENTARY CRITICISMS OR SUGGESTIONS NOW THAN IT HAS IN THE PAST. LOW

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Message Attributes

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